

Meeting for Worship with Attention to Business
Asheville Friends Meeting
7th Month 11, 2021

Present: Bob Lackey, Clerk; Beth Eddy, Recording Clerk

Meeting for Business will be by zoom and not from the meetinghouse.

Present via Zoom: Morgan Murray, Mike Eddy, Margaret Normile, Patricia Johnson, Gita Larson, Patti Hughes, Raelin Hansen, Robin Wells, Jim Cavener, Steve Livingston, Sarah Jane Thomas, Jane Fernandes, Ellie Cox, Margaret Farmer, Barbara Burke, Barbara Ester, Kitti Reynolds.

Meeting opened with Silent Worship

The Clerk shared a reading out of silence.

Guide To Quaker Practice by Howard H. Brinton P 37.
Pendle Hill Pamphlet 20, 1955.

“Every meeting should hold a business session at least once a month. This should be preceded by a time of worship in order that the spirit of worship may pervade the transaction of business. In both the meeting for worship and the meeting for business, guidance is sought from the Spirit of Truth and Life by whose operation the group is brought into love and unity.”

Minute #1: The 6th month business meeting minutes were approved with the following corrections: we are building relationships with “Eastern Band of Cherokee Indians (EBCI); and reference should be to the AD HOC Handbook.

Announcements:

Gita Larson told us that the Tuesday night ‘book’ discussion is still continuing and all should feel free to join in, let Morgan Murray know to receive the zoom address.

Robin reminded us of the upcoming farewell pizza party for Satchel on thursday 7/15/21.

Committees:

Finance: Ellen Carr, Satchel Loftis

Both Satchel and Ellen were out of town. The report will be given at the 8th month Business Meeting (BM) A Friend reminded us that we need to be reminded at every BM that we depend on contributions for support of the meeting.

Peace and Earth: Steve Livingston, Pat Johnson

In response to the concern that was raised at our last month's business meeting regarding the use of the term "settler-colonialism"(SC) Pat Johnson consulted with Cherokee historian Watson Harlan, with whom she has nurtured a genuine relationship. The Committee recommends that Meeting accept the advice of Mr. Harlan and change the wording of our Land Acknowledgment to define the term in accordance with his recommendation. See attachment

The third paragraph of the "short version" will be changed to read as follows:

We acknowledge that an act of recognition is not enough to overcome the history of settler-colonialism, defined as the introduction of a group of foreign peoples to a region by an imperialist state with the express desire to replace the native inhabitants with its own colonial peoples for economic, political, religious or social reasons. This effort usually involves the assimilation or destruction of native states and peoples in favor of a colonized governmental structure that is akin to the mother state of the colony.

This definition would be added to the short version of the Land Acknowledgment. Pat told us that this suggested wording from Watson Harlan more clearly reflects the Eastern Band Cherokee Indians view than the wikipedia version.

The Peace and Earth committee does not recommend changing the "long version."

Minute #2: Approved the use of the recommended SC definition in the short version of the land acknowledgment

The LA short version, now approved, will be told (sent) to the EBCI Principle chief and he will send it to their Tribal Council for their approval consideration. The Council will let us know when we will be on the agenda. (tribal council meets on the first Thursday of every month). We will use input from Bob Lackey, M&C, plus P&E on appropriate representation.

If Tribal Council approves our LA we will then decide how to use it in our Meeting,

Pat reiterated that this is just the first step in our relationship with the tribe. Going forward we may wish to support and be involved with their center for Native Health.

A Friend stated that it was important to follow the Lead of the Cherokee nation as we go forward.

We had previously talked about second hour presentations by Watson and Dr Ben Steere. Pat asked if we would want a panel discussion or talk by each separately. All agreed having them separately would give us more time to talk with each presenter.

Minute #3: Approved to have one speaker in the second hour of the eight month.

Pat will make the arrangements with Dr. Steere to present on 8/15/21, if his schedule permits..

Steve Livingston offered the Minute on the Palestine/ Israel situation (this was held over from the last Business Meeting). The minute calls on Congress and the President to take specific action. See attachment.

All agreed that it was a well informed statement; Concern about its effectiveness was raised and that the points of human rights was very important . It was stated that

governments create policy that hurt real people. Af rend asked that it be sent (along with the LA) to the Friends Journal and other on line forums. That the minute be included with SAYMA peace and concerns committee.

Minute #4: Approved the Minute on the Palestine/Israel situation as presented.

Ministry and Counsel:

Meeting allowing groups other than the 3 approved at 6.21 BM. Bob Lackey

Bob told us that we had been approached by the ACLU for use of our meetinghouse. Since we would not have a BM until after the time of use, the rental coordinator and Bob agreed to allow them to use it for this one time only. Bob then led a discussion as to opening the MH and drafting our policy realizing we are still being cautious and watching the covid pandemic infection local numbers.

With the new variant, we may need to close the MH again. We had approved the use of the MH by 3 rental groups, is there a need to always approve each group separately? We could establish a time between groups to allow time to air out. With the latest CDC guidelines the virus is spread by sersol (breathing) and the MH does not require wiping down after a group uses the facility. The rental coordinator informed us that usually NO ONE meets on the same day and on the occasion they do there is a 1½ -2 hour space between usage. Renters do have restrictions: no wifi is available at the MH; windows are to be open for air flow; upstairs and kitchen are NOT available for use; and the renter sets their own decisions on mask wearing/vaccinations etc.

A rental policy will be drafted and put into the handbook, which will be online in our AFM website.

Minute # 5: Approved that the MH can be used by other outside groups. Pat Johnson will manage scheduling; Sarah Jane Thomas from H&G will create a check list for opening and closing the MH; M&C will draft a policy for use.

Ad Hoc Handbook Committee : Patti Hughes, Bob Lackey Patti told us that She and Gail had created an outline for the policy handbook. They need others to help and suggest a committee be formed to finish and finalize the policy HandBook. See attachment.

Minute # 6: Approved a coordinating committee be formed.

Following members will be on the committee: Margaret Farmer, Kitty Reynolds, Bob Lackey, Patti Hughes and Robin Wells. They asked Mike Eddy (he agreed) to help them in scanning the documents that are not already electronic

House and Grounds: Sarah Jane Thomas

Sara Jane told us that she got a call back from Duke energy last week and that they will cut the 'leaning' tree down within 60 days. We will have to do the clean up, but since it is close to road, we could pile it by the curb and the city would pick it up.

She also told us that the backdoor was unlocked when she arrived today and had been found unlocked at previous times, plus one time the front door was unlocked. We have to remember to check that all doors are locked when the last person leaves. She will create a checklist for closing the MH; she stated 'Don't assume that someone else has done it, but check before you leave'. Other Friends stated they have found the backdoor unlocked also. Sara Jane will send the checklist to Patti for inclusion in the MH policy Handbook.

Yellow Jackets have been spotted close to the picnic table. She warned us that it has been identified and Timm has flagged the yard at the Yellow Jacket nest sites.

Morgan was not available so his report on SAYMA will be delayed to the next month's BM, along with the finance report.

The meeting closed with silent worship until the way opens for our next business meeting in the 8th month of 2021.

Attachments:

AFM draft LA for BM.doc (short version)

Palestinian Scan 0013.pdf

AFM Handbook Outline Final Draft.docx

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Short Version

The Asheville Friends Meeting acknowledges, with respect, that the land we are on today is ancestral land of the *Anikituwagi*, more commonly known as the Cherokee. We recognize the Cherokee as the native people and original stewards of this land. We also recognize all the varied Indigenous people who have lived in and continue to live in and around these lands.

This land was known as Togyasdi, Where They Race Boats and was part of the Cherokee Nation, Tsalagi Ayeli. It covered as many as 108,000 square miles of the American Southeast as late as 1730 and consisted of sixty or more towns. The stories that come from this land teach how to live, interact and mutually care for all relations.

We understand that there is a need to listen and learn from the people of this land. We acknowledge that an act of recognition is not enough to overcome the settler-colonial history that has attempted to eradicate indigenous people from the history and consciousness of these lands.

The Eastern Band of Cherokee and Asheville Friends Meeting seek to affirm our work together to ensure a strong relationship rooted in relevancy, responsibility, respect and reciprocity. Therefore, we have a responsibility to commit our efforts and resources to the health and priorities of the Eastern Band of Cherokee Indians, and all the varied Indigenous people who live in and around the land on which we are situated. As these words are spoken and heard, we renew and reaffirm this property as Cherokee homelands.

"You take my water, burn my olive trees, destroy my house, take my job, steal my land, imprison my father, kill my mother, bombard my country, starve us all, humiliate us all, but I am to blame: I shot a rocket back."

~ an old man in Gaza

The Asheville Friends Meeting calls on Congress and the President to: *do the following.*

- * **prohibit U.S. military aid to Israel from being used for annexation of West Bank/East Jerusalem.** The prospect of unilateral annexation places the vision of a lawful, diplomatic, and equitable resolution to the Israeli-Palestinian conflict under unprecedented threat. Annexation not only contravenes international law and decades of established U.S. policy, but also overturns the basic premise that Palestinians have a right to self-determination and security in their own homeland.
- * **oppose the displacement of Palestinians by Israeli settlers and ensure that U.S. equipment and funding is not used for any demolition activity.** Settlements are illegal under international law, whether in the West Bank or in East Jerusalem. Jerusalem must be regarded as a city that can be shared by both peoples, with open access to the city for Palestinians as well as Israelis, as a religious, political, socio-economic, and residential center.
- * **fully fund United Nations Relief and Works Agency (UNRWA) programming, which provides basic health and education services for 5.6 million Palestinian refugees living in Gaza and the West Bank.** Since the United States stopped the nearly \$360 million in funding for the program in 2018, UNRWA has been facing a major funding crisis and urgently needs contributions to continue its life-saving work. Without UNRWA, millions of Palestinians will face food and water insecurity and go without basic healthcare and emergency services.
- * **oppose restrictions that prevent Gaza from accessing electricity and water.** Israel's policy of withholding essential human needs such as water and electricity are forms of collective punishment and as such are violations of international law and deeply antithetical to our Quaker principles. Israel needs to increase the amount of water and electricity it sells to Gaza and allow the region to rebuild its water and sewage infrastructure.

AFM Suggested Handbook Outline

Introduction: to explain the purpose of the handbook.

Positions of Responsibility: short descriptions of duties, hours required, number and frequency of meetings, suggested number of members and whether membership is required.

Clerk
Assistant Clerk
Recording Clerk
Digest Manager
Recorder(membership)
Archivist

Committees:

Ministry and Counsel
Care and Nurture
House and Grounds
Religious Education
Spiritual Enrichment
Peace and Earth
Hospitality
Nominating
Naming
Finance
Scholarship
Long Range Planning
Library
Clerk's Support

Personnel:

Child Caregiver
Grounds Maintenance
Housekeeper

Meeting for Worship

Set Up
Greeting
Breaking Meeting
Hospitality
Clean Up

Meetinghouse Rental: Policy and Procedure

Record Keeping: policies for what to keep

Representatives/Contact people for Wider Quaker Organizations:

SAYMA Representatives to Business Meetings
Ministry and Nurture
Annual Gathering Planning Committee
Friends Committee on National Legislation
American Friends Service Committee
Friends World Committee for Consultation
Friends for Lesbian, Gay Bisexual, Transgender and Queer Concerns
Right Sharing of world Resources

Guidelines for Procedure:

Membership- transfer, application for new members, discontinuance of membership, sojourning, associate membership, youth transition from associate to full membership.
Marriage and Commitment
Grants for Scholarship Guidelines
Memorial Guidelines